

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated September 7, 2004. Claims 1-6 were pending in the application. In the Office Action, claims 1-6 were rejected. In this Amendment, claims 1-6 have been amended. Claims 1-6 thus remain for consideration.

Applicant submits that claims 1-6 are in condition for allowance and requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in light of the following remarks.

Drawings

The objection to the drawings is noted and is corrected in accordance with the drawing change submitted herewith.

Applicant has provided a replacement drawing sheet, including Fig. 2 for the corresponding previously filed drawing sheet. The replacement sheet amends Fig. 2 by inserting the label "Prior Art."

Claim Objections

Claims 1 and 4 were objected to as lacking the phrase "wherein the improvement comprises," as required in a Jepson claim format.

Applicant disagrees with the Examiner. The claims are not written in a Jepson claim format. Accordingly, Applicant requests that any objections to claims 1 and 4 be withdrawn.

§112 Rejections

Claims 1-6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement.

Applicant has amended claim 1-6 and submits that the amendments to the claims render claims 1-6 compliant with §112. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejections under §112 be withdrawn.

In a telephone interview conducted on November 15, 2004, the Examiner kindly indicated to Applicant's representative that claims 1-6 would be allowable if the independent claims were amended by removing the limitation "image-quality adjustment filter for applying image-quality adjustment..."

During such interview, the Examiner indicated that independent claims 1 and 4 as presented herein would be in a condition to overcome the 112, first paragraph issues.

Applicant submits that all of the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to these claims, as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

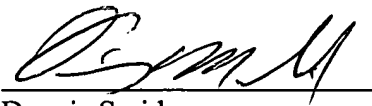
If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,

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